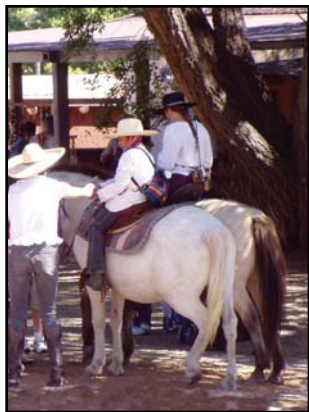


## Trail Administration

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA) partners with these two agencies to further mutual goals for trail preservation and development for visitor use.

Trail administration furthers the preservation and protection of historic properties that still exist along the route in the United States, tells the story of the trail, and collaborates with Mexican counterparts to ensure that the legacy of the historic corridor is perpetuated in both countries. Trail administration means:

- Working to preserve and protect trail routes, remnants, and related resources
- Providing opportunities for the public to experience the trail
- Assisting partners in planning and developing visitor facilities, and interpretive and educational materials
- Certifying sites and segments as part of the national historic trail
- Stimulating grassroots management, development, and resource protection via technical and limited funding assistance
- Facilitating coordination between federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies, non-profit organizations and institutions, private landowners, and others.



Travel and trade along this famous route resulted in the exchange of cultural materials and traditions. The introduction of horses, sheep, and other stock animals;

Experience Your America

## For Additional Information, contact:

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail  
National Park Service  
National Trails System-Santa Fe  
PO Box 728  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728  
email: [michael\\_taylor@nps.gov](mailto:michael_taylor@nps.gov)



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail  
New Mexico Bureau of Land Management  
PO Box 27115  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115  
email: [Sarah\\_Schlanger@blm.gov](mailto:Sarah_Schlanger@blm.gov)



## Related Internet links:

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail history and visitor information:  
[www.elcaminoreal.org/trail](http://www.elcaminoreal.org/trail)

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, National Park Service:  
[www.nps.gov/elca](http://www.nps.gov/elca)

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association  
[www.caminorealcarta.org](http://www.caminorealcarta.org)

**Cover image:** The modern plaza in Socorro, New Mexico, illustrates the continued importance of community centers along the historic route.



Catholicism; new fruits and vegetables; and various forms of architecture and systems of government, had significant consequences on the region and the continent.



# El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail





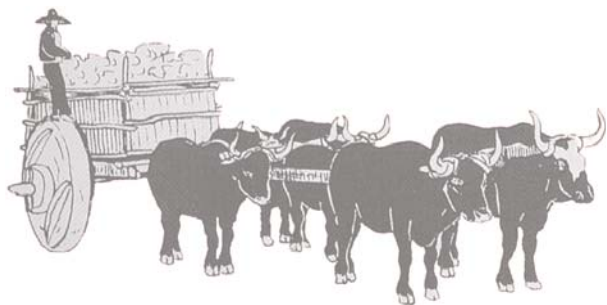
## El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

### The Trail Yesterday

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is the earliest Euro-American trade route in the United States. Tying Spain's colonial capital at Mexico City to its northern frontier in distant New Mexico, the route spans three centuries, two countries, and 1,600 miles. The route was blazed atop a network of footpaths that connected Mexico's ancient cultures with the equally ancient cultures of the interior West.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro begins in Mexico City. As the "Royal Road of the Interior Lands," the frontier wagon road brought settlers into today's New Mexico. Once travelers crossed the arid lands above Ciudad Chihuahua, they followed the wide Rio Grande valley north into New Mexico. Many of the historic *parajes* (camping grounds) and early settlements created by the Spanish colonists moving along El Camino Real are today's modern cities along the Rio Grande. In the United States, the trail stretches from the El Paso area in Texas, through Las Cruces, Socorro, Belen, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)—the first capital—in New Mexico.

The trail has fostered exchanges between people from many backgrounds, including American Indians, Spaniards and other Europeans, Mexicans, and later New Mexicans, and others from the United States.



From 1598, when the first Spanish colonizing expedition made its way up the Rio Grande, through the 1880s, the wagon road was the main thoroughfare between Mexico and New Mexico. The trail corridor is still very much alive, 125 years after the coming of the railroad eclipsed commercial use of the wagon road.



Looking south across the distant plains below La Bajada, trail visitors can view traces of the historic route.

### The Trail Today

Added to the National Trails System in October 2000 by the U.S. Congress, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail extends 404 miles from El Paso, Texas, to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, New Mexico.

The trail corridor today nurtures a lively trade of ideas, customs, language, and friendships between Mexico and the American Southwest. Recognition as an international historic trail commemorates a shared cultural and geographic heritage and helps eliminate cultural barriers and enrich the lives of people living along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.



— El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail in the United States

..... El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in Mexico

Trail administrators are actively working with partners to develop this newly designated national historic trail. Stay tuned to the internet links as noted on the reverse side of this brochure for updates on projects, research, and opportunities for visitors to experience the trail.